



Indiana Early Learning Advisory Committee

Family Engagement Workgroup Meeting Minutes Summary

November 20, 2015

12:00 – 2:00 pm

Attendees: John Peirce, Jenni Mohr, Mindy Bennett, Katie Herron, Jim Cohen, Kirsten Eamon-Shine, Maria Gonzalez Blacketer, Kyle Wehmann, Amanda Lopez; *On the phone:* Jen Drake

Key Topics Discussed

Special Guests/Presenters

- Stacey Herald, *Program Director, Services and Outcomes, Department of Child Services*
- Kristina Killen, *Prevention Manager, Department of Child Services*
- Mary Ann West, *Director, Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), Maternal and Child Health Division*

New Workgroup Members

- Kirsten Eamon-Shine, *Manager of Communications and Engagement, Early Learning Indiana*
- Maria Gonzales Blacketer, *Family Services Specialist, Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana (Head Start and Early Head Start)*

ELAC Updates

- The Strategic Plan will be finalized and unveiled at the January Kickoff Meeting on January 14, 2016 from 10am – 4pm (Save the date!).
- Next Annual Report is under development to be completed before the General Assembly takes session in January.
- New and Reappointed Committee Members (2-year terms are up): Kevin Bain, Melanie Brizzi, Charlie Geier, Connie Sherman, Robin Atkins, Christopher Stokes and Cindy Frey.

Special Presentation Re: Maternal Infant Early Child Home Visiting (MIECHV) Home Visiting

- Indiana currently uses MIECHV funding to support two evidence-based home visiting programs: Healthy Families and Nurse Family Partnerships (NFP).
- The Indiana Home Visiting Advisory Board (INHVAB) has worked to develop a new definition of Home Visiting (see attachments uploaded in Wiggio).

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- Workgroup reviewed the MIECHV and INHVAB Draft Home Visiting Definition (uploaded to Wiggio) and discussed what “home visiting” means across different arenas, to different audiences. Minor edits were suggested.
- Discussed simplifying this definition of home visiting for the ELAC glossary.
- A [funding opportunity announcement](#) for current MIECHV grantees (state agencies) was released, and Indiana is eligible to apply.
- Discussed opportunities for this workgroup to partner with the INHVAB workgroup to support each other’s work and goals.
- The workgroup decided to wait until February to discuss coordination and alignment of home visiting and ECE programs, including highlighting local examples, i.e., ELI / Partnerships for Early Learners, will discuss their relationship with Nurse Family Partnerships (NFP).
- Briefly discussed that three workgroup members (Jen Drake, Jim Cohen and Mindy Bennet) could share their organizations experience in coordinating home visiting and ECE programs locally (in February).

Family Engagement Toolkit Provider Feedback Survey Update

- John shared the FE Toolkit provider feedback survey with OECOSL, and they will send it to providers.
- Katie noted that she shared it with the 13 Family Engagement AmeriCorps Project program sites for feedback since all AmeriCorps sites have completed the FE self-assessment.

Family-Friendly Version of Indiana Foundations

- John shared that there was a call with IDOE, FSSA and workgroup members (John, Jenni and Meghan) to discuss developing a family-friendly version of the Foundations.
- Jenni gave an update on her student assignment with developing a family-friendly version of the Foundations.
- Erin Kissling (IDOE) has developed a potential template/outline.
- John suggested developing a “prototype” by converting one of the Foundations to a family-friendly version first and testing it out with families to get feedback. The feedback would then be used as a guide to convert the rest of the Foundations to family-friendly versions.

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- Kirsten shared that ELI's Partnerships for Early Learners initiative might be interested in partnering in this development process.
- John shared that there is a proposed Scope of Work for this workgroup's role in helping to develop a family-friendly version in Wiggio. The workgroup will discuss at the next meeting in December.

Key Questions Raised

1. Is communication and messaging about the importance of home visiting / the early years one of the priority areas for the Indiana Home Visiting Advisory Board (INHVAB)?
2. How do we better coordinate and align the transition of children and families who are participating in an evidence-based home visiting program to high quality early childhood education programs? What are local communities and programs already doing to facilitate this transition?

Action Steps

1. Subgroup (*John Peirce, Katie Herron, Kirsten Eamon-Shine, Jen Drake*) agreed to draft a definition of home visiting for the ELAC Glossary and present it at next workgroup meeting.
2. Jenni Mohr will share the summary of student ideas on Wiggio prior to next workgroup meeting.
3. All workgroup members are to review the Scope of Work for the Family-friendly version of the Indiana Foundations (uploaded to Wiggio) and come to next workgroup meeting prepared to discuss.

Next Meeting: Friday, December 18, 2015 12:00 – 2:00pm

Location: Early Learning Indiana Offices, 615 N. Alabama Street, Suite 300 Indianapolis, IN 46204

Conference Call #: 1-866-528-2256 **Code:** 4758999

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